

Happy 90th Birthday Ronnie!



A TRIBUTE TO
DR VERONICA DUNNE

NATIONAL CONCERT HALL
Thursday, August 3rd 2017

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UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS

I am delighted to extend my very warm wishes to the Dublin Choral Foundation on this very special occasion, in honour of Dr. Veronica Dunne, the renowned opera singer, teacher and instigator of the Veronica Dunne Singing Competition.

As you prepare for a wonderful evening of music and arts, may I, as President of Ireland and as Patron of the National Concert Hall, express our nation's appreciation and gratitude for the work of Dr. Veronica Dunne, and for the legacy of inspiration she has left, and to which she continues to contribute.

Veronica Dunne has not only captivated us with her own singing, she has also unlocked the talents of scores of others, through her enthusiasm, energy and love of music.

I had the privilege, in 2014, to bestow on her the 'National Concert Hall Lifetime Achievement Award' recipient, and she is a most worthwhile recipient of that honour.

I send you my warmest congratulations and most sincere good wishes on this joyful occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland

GREETINGS FROM...



Dearest Ronnie

Can it really be 10 years since we were here celebrating your 80th Birthday?

In the programme for that evening apart from highlighting your stage and concert hall career I wrote of the lack of an adequate discography that properly reflects your career as a singer and performer. Well, in 2010 EMI produced a 3 CD set

which goes part of the way in redressing this imbalance.

More importantly Alison Maxwell's biography last year shares your life and career to-date with us all. In Sept 2015 I was asked by Alison to run my eye over the final draft....my e-mail response to her:

"Congratulations..... I just could not put it down.... The real Ronnie just leaped off the pages....her humanity shining through like a beacon. Her broad achievements as singer and teacher are reasonably well known... It is marvellous to have them fleshed out in loving detail. You have also managed to capture her earthiness, lack of pretension, no nonsense approach and unerring ability to cut through 'bullshit'. Her many difficulties on and off stage are not shirked. She emerges all the better as a person from this scrutiny. I laughed and I cried as you retold so many of her wonderful stories and I cheered when I saw you had included a number of the risqué ones...setting them always in their original context. The mutual bond and affection between Ronnie and her pupils is tangible

The final chapter on her approach to singing will be a reference guide and template for singers and indeed teachers for generations to come."

Carissima Ronnie, the current crop of Irish singers are so fortunate in the line of teaching you represent ... from you back through Hubert Rooney, in turn, his teacher the great Polish Tenor, Jean De Reszke ... through to Antonio Cotogni and Giovanni Sbriglia, two legendary Italian singers, baritone and tenor respectively, both singing teachers of the early years of the 19th Century and alumni of the Naples Conservatory... the Italian cradle of Bel Canto.....Beautiful Singing.

What a legacy.....and with more to come.....

Ad multos annos.

Love Paddy

Paddy Brennan, Archivist DGOS, spent over 40 years of his life in the DGOS/Opera Ireland, firstly as a Super [as in walk on extra], graduating to 33+ years as a Chorister, latterly in the Management Committee, finally as a Director of Opera Ireland and ultimately as the Company Archivist. His day job, until retirement in 1998, encompassed diverse roles in Irish Cement, a major component of CRH.



Dear Ronnie,

Unfortunately I am not available to participate in tonight's very special event. But, I would like to wish you a fabulous 90th birthday Ronnie and take this opportunity to thank you for the tireless dedication you invested in me as a young singer.

Thank you for giving me the tools I required for sustaining a long and exciting international career. Thank you for giving me the gift of the appreciation and enjoyment of music. Ronnie you have been, and will continue to be an inspiration to me for your passion, your abundance of energy, and zest for life.

Much love Pat x

Dubliner Patricia Bardon had her first singing lesson with Ronnie at the tender age of 12. At 18 she was a prize winner in the Cardiff Singer of the World Competition going on to sing on the worlds greatest operatic stages with the finest Orchestras and Conductors of our time. Considered one of the greatest Handelian singers of her generation, her career embraces a diversity of repertoire from Contemporary and Bel canto to Wagner and Verdi. She has made numerous recordings, DVD's of live Opera, she is a Grammy award winner and has received multiple Laurence Olivier Award nominations for her outstanding contribution to Opera in the UK. Patricia is Artist in Residence at the DIT Dublin and is a Professor at the Royal College of Music London.



Dearest Ronnie,

I can't believe that ten years have passed since your 80th birthday celebrations. The fact that you are still teaching, are totally involved in fundraising and the organisation of your International Singing Competition, is a tribute to your energy, interest in the next generation of singers and your love of the Art itself. Those of us who know you as a teacher, and close friend can only stand back and admire your generosity, enthusiasm, and determination and hope to emulate you in our own careers.

My love and very best wishes for a very happy 90th birthday, and continued health, happiness and success.

Suzanne Murphy

THE LOVE OF SINGING - DR VERONICA DUNNE

On 2 August 1927 a star of Irish opera was born. It was not long before Veronica Bernadette Dunne developed a passion for music, specifically opera, as she listened to live broadcasts from Milan on her father's wireless. She was eleven when her family realized she had a strong soprano voice and she began her studies with Herbert Rooney. Rooney had been a student of the famous tenor Jean de Reszke in Paris, and he was a proponent of the *bel canto* tradition. He nurtured and trained Ronnie's voice into a beautiful instrument. In 1946, as an innocent nineteen-year-old, she travelled alone to Rome to further her studies with Contessa Soldini Calcagni and later with Maestro Francesco Calcatelli. Her great friend and protector in Rome was Monseigneur Hugh O'Flaherty, the pimpnel of the Vatican.

Ronnie made her operatic début in 1950 with the Dublin Grand Opera Society as Micaëla in *Carmen*, and shortly afterwards returned to Rome. In 1952, she entered the prestigious Concorso Lirico Milano and won first place. In June of that year she made her international début as Mimi in *La Bohème* at Teatro Nuovo, Milan.

It was the beginning of an extraordinary career. Ronnie joined the Company of the Royal Opera House, London in September 1952. A mere three weeks later she took to the Covent Garden stage as Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier*, but it was her role as Mimi, reprised many times in Covent Garden, which secured her reputation. Ronnie sang major roles with Welsh National Opera, Scottish National Opera, Sadler's Wells (now ENO) and Wexford Festival Opera. She performed in oratorio at home and abroad, and toured with Sir John Barbirolli and the Hallé Orchestra. She gave numerous broadcasts on RTÉ and the BBC and made recordings with EMI Records.

In 1961 Ronnie joined the teaching staff at the College of Music, Dublin. Since then she has devoted her life to the training of young singers. She became Head of the School of Vocal Studies in 1978. During all her years at the College she gave of herself untiringly, working from dawn to dusk. She prepared students for national and international examinations and competitions, and produced operas at the college. She encouraged each and every young musician who came her way, including an aspiring young pianist named John O'Connor, and Ite O'Donovan, conductor of the College of Music Choral Society. Ronnie was keen that her students join Ite's choir, and for many it was their first public appearance. Ronnie and Ite collaborated in preparing singers for performances given between 1987 and 1992, in particular during the celebrations for the College's Centenary Year, 1989-1990.

Ronnie's exceptional contribution to the vocal arts was recognised when she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from University College Dublin in 1987, and in 1988 the Royal Dublin Society made her an Honorary Life Member.

When Ronnie retired from the College of Music in 1992, students and former students organized a gala concert in her honour as a mark of the respect and affection they felt for the woman who had changed their lives, musically and personally. It was the first of many such concerts. Ronnie became Director of the Leinster Opera Studio, Dublin, now situated at the Leinster School of Music, Griffith College in Glasnevin. She also began teaching at the Royal Irish Academy of Music where, more than twenty years later, she continues to demand complete dedication and commitment from her students. They work hard in the expectation that they will join hundreds of others whom Ronnie has trained to such high standards that they achieve outstanding international success. Many of these singers appear on stage tonight.

Ronnie is a founding member of The Friends of the Vocal Arts, established to assist Irish vocal students financially.



The culmination of her dream was the establishment of the Veronica Dunne Bursary, a singing competition that took place in the National Concert Hall in 1995. The competition flourished, and the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition now attracts competitors from all over the world. It offers a global stage for the encouragement and development of Irish and international vocal talent, and is a firm fixture on the operatic calendar.

Though dedicated to teaching Ronnie continued to perform, in particular singing contemporary music in concert. She performed Messiaen's *Harawi* with Havelock Nelson (Belfast Festival 1969 and Dublin Arts Festival TCD 1970); James Wilson's *The Táin* (20th Century Music Festival 1972); and Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* at the Kilkenny Arts Week in 1978.

In 2002 Ronnie gave a spellbinding performance of the Countess in Opera Ireland's production of Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*. Nine years later she played the cameo role of Granma Tzeitel in Lyric Opera's production of *Fiddler on the Roof* in the Gaiety Theatre.

Ronnie's personal life is as spectacular as many of the operas in which she performed. Alison Maxwell tells the story of her struggles and achievements, courage, humour and resilience in a sumptuous volume entitled *RONNIE The authorised biography of Veronica Dunne*.

Dr Veronica Dunne is an Irish National Treasure. She can be credited with the strong foundation upon which the Dublin vocal community was built. She is a constant presence in the Dublin opera world, a highly respected vocal musician and teacher, a unique and gracious lady. In 2014, Ronnie was presented with the highest accolade the National Concert Hall can bestow – the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Ronnie's singing students are legion; many are legendary! They enjoy successful international careers as performers in opera, oratorio and in concert. Others have become outstanding vocal teachers, and still others sing purely for the love of singing.

Alison Maxwell



1. Veronica Dunne with Kathleen Ferrier in *Orfeo* ROH 1952



2. Veronica Dunne with Oreste Kirkop in *La bohème* ROH 1958



3. Margaret Burke Sheridan with Ronnie who is about to go on stage as Mimi in *La bohème*

4. Veronica Dunne in *Carmen* DGOS 1951

5. Veronica Dunne in *Faust* DGOS 1951



6. Dr Veronica Dunne - as Blanche in *The Carmelites* ROH 1955 poses with Oreste Kirkop, performing Rigoletto



7. Dr Veronica Dunne - with her great friend Joan Sutherland

I'm sorry I can't be with you at the concert tonight because of prior commitments, but I have no doubt that it will be a hugely entertaining night, and a fitting tribute to the wonderful Veronica Dunne on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Ronnie is Ireland's most esteemed singing teacher and opera star. This lady has devoted much of her life selflessly to the service of others, the training of young Irish voices and the development of a number of illustrious Irish operatic careers. It is fitting, therefore, that a concert should be held at our National Concert Hall in tribute to such an inspirational person.

From her early days training in Rome, through to her Italian operatic debut in *La Bohème* at the Teatro Nuovo in Milan, and a number of major roles at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, Ronnie was always a leading light in the Irish music world.

However, it is her impact as a voice teacher, with the Dublin Institute of Technology, the Leinster School of Music and the Royal Irish Academy of Music which has left a lasting legacy. It is fitting that Ireland's premier International Singing Competition is named after this talented lady.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Ronnie through my current day job, and Ronnie you are always warm, vivacious and full of life. I would like to join with everyone in wishing Ireland's "Grande Dame of Singing" a wonderful birthday, and trust you will all enjoy the concert held in her honour.

Heather Humphreys, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



CURTAIN UP! - HIGHLIGHTS OF VERONICA DUNNE'S STAGE CAREER

From Tosca to Mimi, Carmen to Blanche, Veronica Dunne has sung them all, and with some of the finest artists in the operatic world – Joan Sutherland, Sir John Barbirolli, Raphael Kubelik, Tibor Paul, Otakar Kraus, Kathleen Ferrier. In a stage career that spanned sixty-four years, the venues in which Ronnie appeared include Teatro Nuovo Milano, Gaiety Theatre, Covent Garden, Royal Albert Hall, Hereford Cathedral and Carnegie Hall.

Ronnie made her operatic début as Micaëla in *Carmen* with the DGOS in 1950. Her international break-through came in 1952 when the prize for winning the Concorso Lyrico Milano as a soprano was to sing Mimi in *La Bohème* for six performances at Teatro Nuovo Milano. She caused a sensation with the hard-to-please Italian audiences, and was spotted by a director of the Royal Opera House who immediately engaged her. Within three weeks of arriving in London, Ronnie was starring as Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier* on the Covent Garden stage.

She was with the ROH for six years and toured with the Company several times. Three of her roles were especially memorable: Mimi in *La Bohème* (1953-1958), hailed by London critics as exceptional; Blanche in *The Carmelites* (1958), the world première of Poulenc's opera; and Euridice in *Orpheus* (1953), a heart-breaking performance with Kathleen Ferrier as Orpheus, the last time she sang before she died.

Ronnie performed a variety of roles with the DGOS, including: Micaëla in *Carmen* (1950-1954); Marguerite in *Faust* (1951-1955); Mimi in *La Bohème* (1952-1965); Suzel in *L'amico Fritz* (1952); Antonia in *The Tales of Hoffmann* (1957); Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier* (1952-1964) and Leila in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* (1964). Other roles were Manon in Massenet's *Manon* (1962) in which Ronnie revelled as the flirty and vivacious heroine, and Countess Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* (1963). Commenting on the Countess, Charles Acton wrote in the Irish Times: 'Veronica Dunne is in splendid voice. Her style and phrasing were ideal for the music.'

The Welsh loved Ronnie, and her roles with Welsh National Opera ranged from Mimi (1963-1964), to Tosca (1965), to Marenka in *The Bartered Bride* (1965-1966) and Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* (1966-1967).

She was a favourite with the Kilrush Operatic Society, singing Eily in *Lily of Killarney* (1959); Arlene in *The Bohemian Girl* (1960); Marguerite in *Faust* (1961); Carmen (1963) and Tosca (1964). She also sang with Scottish National Opera, Sadler's Wells and Wexford Festival Opera, in addition to giving numerous concerts and recitals.

Ronnie's strong soprano voice and her depth of feeling for music found full expression in Mass and oratorio works. At home and abroad she gave memorable performances by such composers as Verdi, Handel, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Pergolesi, Rossini, Stravinsky, Bruckner, Kodály and Janáček.

Amongst the world and Irish premières in which Ronnie featured as a soloist are: *Never to have lived is best*, Bodley (1965); *Orchesterlieder*, Vogel (1966); *A Terrible Beauty is Born*, Boydell (1966); *Voyelles*, Victory (1966); *The Water and The Fire*, Milner (1968); *Seven Irish Songs*, Wilson (1971); *The Táin*, Wilson (1972), and *Fand*, Wilson (1975).

Ronnie did not shy away from *avant-garde* music such as Messiaen's *Harawi* (1969) or Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* (1978), but in 2002 she faced an entirely new challenge, the role of the Countess in Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* at the Gaiety Theatre. Harvey O'Brien in *Culture Vulture* described 'an unforgettable performance from Irish opera legend Veronica Dunne' who 'is still a commanding stage presence. Her dramatic characterization far exceeds the expected level of acting in most operas, and is often as frighteningly intense as the best theatrical performances. Her sweet, clear singing voice is heard only in snippets, but it is fitting that a woman who has now trained two generations of singers should take her place on stage at what must rank among Opera Ireland's triumphs.'

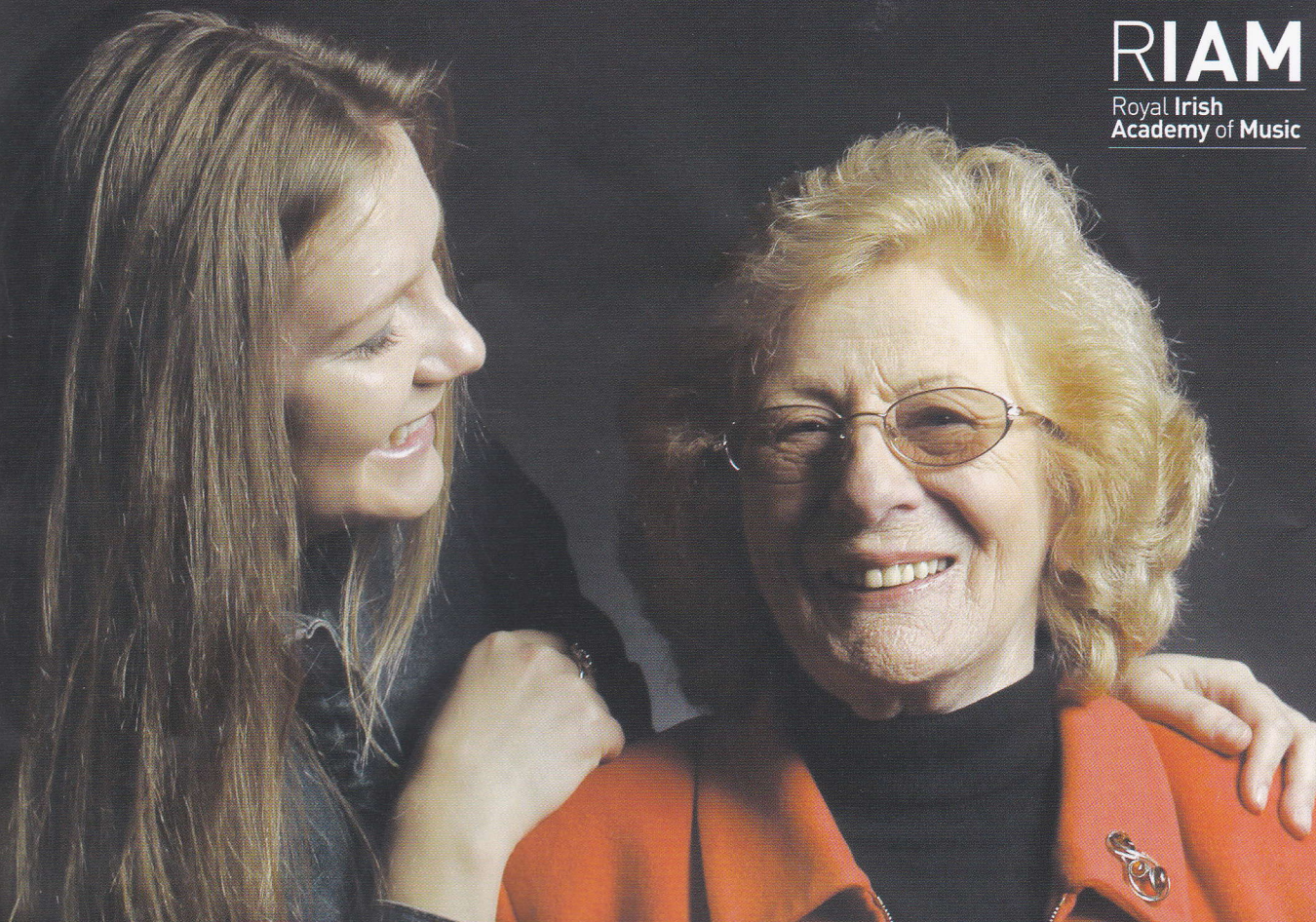
Nine years later, at the age of eighty-three, Ronnie took to the stage again, and thoroughly enjoyed being back at the Gaiety as Grandma Tzeitel in the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. Ciara Dwyer of the Irish Times observed, 'In any other country, Ronnie would be a dame.'

Alison Maxwell

RONNIE The authorised biography of Veronica Dunne.

RIAM

Royal Irish
Academy of Music



Wishing our "grande dame" Ronnie a happy 90th birthday.

The
MERRION

Peter MacCann
General Manager

3rd August 2017

Dear Ronnie

Congratulations on being 90 years young! We are very sorry to miss this special evening.

We have had the great privilege of working with you on the Veronica Dunne International Singing competition for many years and look forward to continuing to do so into the future.

You are truly an inspiration to all who have worked with you but in particular to the many talented young vocalists you have trained and nurtured over the years.

You are a National Treasure.

Have a wonderful celebratory evening.

Best wishes.

Ken & Dorothy

Artistic Director - Cav. Vivian Coates, 63 Betsaghstown Wood, Betsaghstown, Co. Meath, Ireland

Tel/Fax: +353 41 988 7899 e-mail: info@lyricoperaproductions.com
Web: www.lyricoperaproductions.com

LYRIC OPERA
Productions

2 August 2017

Our Patron - Our Friend

Lyric Opera pays tribute to this very special person. With so many of her creations here, performing this evening, it is a celebration of a woman who never stops giving of herself to others.

Ronnie has been in my life for so long now that I cannot put a number to the years. She seems to always have been there. An opening night would not be the same without Ronnie attending - always giving you a nod of approval. Mind you, there have been nights when that nod did not come and you knew in your heart that she was right. Damn you, Ronnie!

Lyric Opera is delighted to be part of this evening, dedicating the works of these great opera composers and the talents of these singers to this national treasure. Not only a legend amongst her peers, but known throughout every continent of the world for her contribution to this great art form - opera.

I have had the privilege of working with Ronnie over many years, working with her students and on one occasion, directing her. That was an experience to treasure! She always gives of herself no matter the cost.

Ronnie, you will always be a part of singers lives in this country. Your wit, passion, determination and your many acts of kindness reveal a more complex character than your quick turn of phrase and your sheer joy of what you are best known for - teaching.

We pay tribute to you dear Ronnie, for being our Patron, and aspiration for the last seventeen years, and for being my friend for so many more. And so, we wish you a very Happy Birthday from everyone at Lyric Opera.

Vivian J. Coates

Cavaliere Vivian J. Coates
Artistic Director



Dear Ronnie

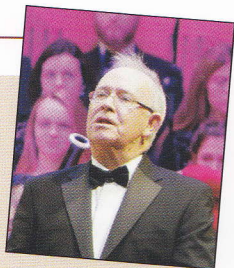
90 years young! You are an example to us all without exception.

Tonight we are saying a simple "thank you" for all you have done for us over the years. I dare not speak for the soloists, but I can certainly speak on behalf of Dublin Choral Foundation whose Patron you have been since our establishment in 1996. You have been such a guiding light over that time and continue to be so.

I honestly don't think there is a single person in this country who has given more to so many young people in such a selfless way in their pursuit of musical excellence. Tonight you will hear the fruits of their labours. That is their way of saying "thank you Ronnie".

You are a national treasure! Have a wonderful evening and prepare for the 95th! Happy birthday Ronnie!

Dr. Tony Peacock
Chairman, Dublin Choral Foundation



Ronnie,

When the National Concert Hall awarded you our Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014, there could not have been a more deserving person for such an accolade - what a lifetime and what achievements!

It is difficult to imagine singing in Ireland without you - how many of your pupils have graced our stage over the last four decades? Your love for your art is inspirational and your energy and commitment to it an extraordinary example to all of us in the musical world.

From everyone at the National Concert Hall, and from our audiences that continue to enjoy the fruits of your wonderful teaching, a huge and heartfelt thank you - and a resounding chorus of Happy Birthday!

Simon Taylor
Chief Executive, National Concert



Patron: Dr Veronica Dunne

Chairman: Dr Anthony Peacock

Artistic Director: Dr Ite O'Donovan

21st Anniversary Year

Dublin Choral Foundation was established in 1996. To promote the development of choirs of excellence and to provide on a non-denominational basis a musical education for children hitherto only available in the cathedral choral tradition

- To promote among the Irish public an increased awareness of good choirs and an increased appreciation of the Arts
- To improve standards of taste in matters of art among the Irish public through the provision of opportunities to engage with the Arts
- To promote high quality concerts and produce quality CDs which reflect the high standard of Irish choral music

Quality music education, professional training and artistic excellence have been at the core of Dublin Choral Foundation's (DCF) aims since its establishment in 1996 by Dr Ite O'Donovan.

For almost 21 years, Dublin Choral Foundation has become a leader in the arts education sector, through its provision of high quality musical education to almost 100 young singers each year via its two established choirs: Piccolo Lasso (children's choir and Initial class) The Lassus Scholars (a professional adult training choir) and more recently Lassus, the company's new fully professional chamber choir. This intensive arts education programme, which aids the cultivation of the intellect and the expansion of the mind, takes place within the choral structure of twice-weekly rehearsals, where choir members receive training in vocal technique, music literacy skills, sight-singing skills and interpretation.

Through their involvement with the choirs, young singers not only learn vital skills for life and business - team-work, co-operation, commitment, attention to detail, precision - but also contribute to the community at large by giving regular performances throughout the city and nationwide.

DUBLIN CHORAL FOUNDATION 1996 – 2017

The Choirs:

PICCOLO LASSO: Having recognised the great value of the music education provided by the cathedral choral tradition, DCF's vision for children's choir Piccolo Lasso is to preserve this great tradition in a modern, secular society.

THE LASSUS SCHOLARS: This professional training choir in the university tradition provides a unique platform for singers to experience further extensive education, training and performance opportunities.

LASSUS: Promoting high standards of music performance to the public is key to all of DCF's ensembles. This is particularly true of the organisation's new flagship professional ensemble which seeks to embark on musical performances of the highest quality, whilst providing a platform for professional choral singers.

THE ORLANDO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA:

(Leader: Gillian Williams), which comprises many of Dublin's most experienced professional musicians, accompanies the choirs for performances at the National Concert Hall.



JOHN O'CONOR



"A pianist of unbounding sensitivity" (Gramophone); "He represents a vanishing tradition that favours inner expression and atmosphere over showmanship and bravura" (Chicago Tribune); "Impeccable technique and musicality ... it is hard to imagine better performances" (Sunday Times, London); "this artist has the kind of flawless touch that makes an audience gasp" (Washington Post); "Exquisite playing" (New York Times).

The Irish pianist John O'Connor has been gathering wonderful reviews for his masterly playing for over forty years. Having studied in his native Dublin, in Vienna with Dieter Weber and being tutored by the legendary Wilhelm Kempff his unanimous 1st Prize at the International Beethoven Piano Competition in 1973 opened up the door to a career that has brought him all around the world.

A Steinway Artist, he is Chair of the Piano Division at Shenandoah University in Virginia, a faculty member at the Glen Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, International Visiting Artist at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Visiting Professor at Showa University in Japan.

For his services to music John O'Connor has been decorated "Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" by the French Government, awarded the "Ehrenkreuz fur Wissenschaft und Kunst" by the Austrian Government, the "Order of the Rising Sun" by the Emperor of Japan and has received many other awards.

GREETINGS FROM...

Dearest Ronnie,

I am still reaping the benefits of having played for your students all those years ago. Your musical imagination, ear for sound and the practical advice you gave so generously to all inspired me to transfer your experience to my pianism. I am forever grateful. (And the incredibly strong gin and tonics and the regular raucous laughter were an inspiration also !!)

With much love on this wonderful birthday - and here's to the hundredth !!!

John

ITE O'DONOVAN



Ite O'Donovan has made a significant contribution to choral music in Dublin for over three decades. Her extensive experience as a music educator has enriched the lives of countless young singers, many of whom have since embarked on a career in music as performers, vocal and instrumental,

and teachers. Having commenced her career as a primary school teacher (1975) and from 1980 as vice-principal, Ite simultaneously continued with her musical studies, graduating with a Mus.B. from TCD in 1981 and in 1986, with an MA in Renaissance Music from QUB. Ite was appointed Director of the Palestrina Choir in 1982 when aged only 26 years and soon forged a path of excellence that gained for the choir an international reputation. Her teaching career continued as Lecturer in the Dublin College of Music/DIT Conservatory of Music from 1983. She built up the choral department, directing prize-winning children's choirs and College Chamber Choir, and established the very successful College of Music Choral Society which performed on numerous occasions at

the National Concert Hall between 1988 and 1994. During the 1990s Ite travelled abroad regularly to attend master-classes in conducting. As an orchestral conductor, Ite has directed a wide range of works from the symphonic and concerto repertoire, in particular in her capacity as conductor of the County Kildare Orchestra and the Orlando Chamber Orchestra. She organised and conducted Dr Veronica Dunne's 80th Birthday Concert at the National Concert Hall in August 2007 which featured twenty eight of Ronnie's former students.

In 1996, having resigned as Director of the Palestrina Choir, Ite established Dublin Choral Foundation with its constituent choirs the Lassus Scholars and Piccolo Lasso with the aim of bringing the high quality music education hitherto only available in the cathedral choral tradition to young singers in the changing, and oftentimes more secular society of the twenty-first century. Her teaching career continued until 2008 when she took early retirement from her whole-time position in order to concentrate on developing her choirs. In 2014 she graduated from UCD with a PhD in Musicology having undertaken major research work into 'Music in Irish Periodical Literature 1770-1970'.

'Lassus' her new professional flagship choir has already made its first recording and was officially launched in the NCH in January 2016.

PROGRAMME

PART 1

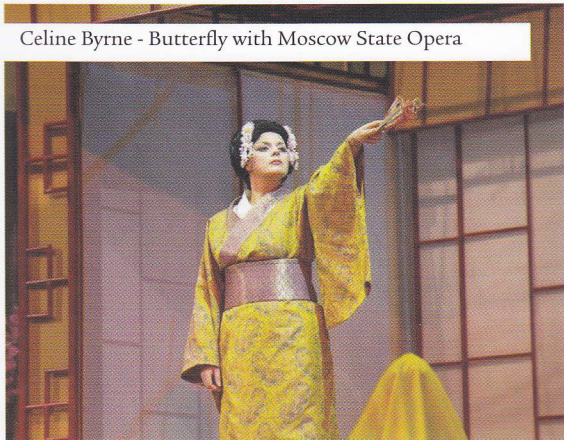
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|-----|--|---|
| 1. | Rossini: Il Barbiere di Siviglia - Largo al factotum | JongHoon Heo (Aldo) |
| 2. | Donizetti: l'Elisir d'amore - Venti scudi | JongHoon Heo (Aldo)
& Youngwoo Kim |
| 3. | Donizetti: l'Elisir d'amore - Una furtiva lagrima | Youngwoo Kim |
| 4. | Rossini: Semiramide - Serbami ognor | Tara Erraught &
Niamh O'Sullivan |
| 5. | Gounod: Faust - Faites lui mes aveux | Gemma Ni Bhriain |
| 6. | Bizet: Carmen - Sequidilla | Niamh O'Sullivan |
| 7. | Puccini: La Bohème - Che gelida manina | Patrick Hyland |
| 8. | Mozart: Così fan tutte - Suave il vento | Sarah Shine,
Gemma Ni Bhriain
& Robert McAllister |
| 9. | Rossini: La Cenerentola - Nacqui all'affanno | Tara Erraught |
| 10. | Puccini: Madama Butterfly - Vogliatemi bene | Celine Byrne &
Patrick Hyland |

PART 2

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 1. | Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 21 K.467 - Andante | John O'Connor |
| 2. | Giordano: Andrea Chénier - La mamma morta | Miriam Murphy |
| 3. | Verdi: Rigoletto - Bella figlia dell'amore | Sarah Shine
Niamh O'Sullivan
Patrick Hyland
Robert McAllister |
| 4. | Leoncavallo: Pagliacci - 'Stridono lassù' | Celine Byrne |
| 5. | Leoncavallo: Pagliacci - Nedda/Silvio duet, Act I, scene 3. | Celine Byrne |
| 6. | Bizet: Pearl Fishers - Au fond du temple saint | JongHoon Heo (Aldo) |
| 7. | Strauss: Der Rosenkavalier: Hab Mir's gelobt | James McCreanor &
Robert McAllister |
| 8. | Giordano: Andrea Chénier - Vicino a te | Celine Byrne
Sarah Shine &
Tara Erraught |
| 9. | Offenbach: Le contes d'Hoffmann - O belle nuit. | Miriam Murphy &
Youngwoo Kim |
| 10. | Offenbach: Le contes d'Hoffmann - Helas, mon Coeur | Sarah Shine &
Gemma Ni Bhriain
& Chorus |
| 11. | Verdi: Nabucco - Va pensiero | Tutti |
| 12. | Puccini: Turandot - Nessun dorma | Tutti with Audience -
See page 21 for text |

Three Tenors & Tutti

Celine Byrne - Butterfly with Moscow State Opera

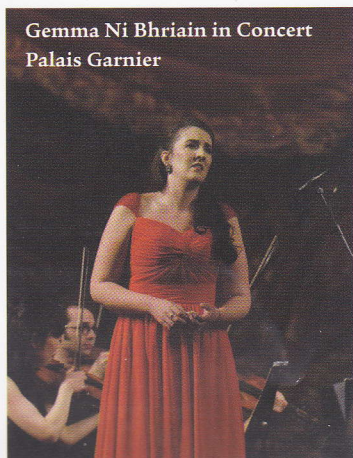


Celine Byrne - Elizabeth - Don Carlo - deutsche Oper am Rhein, Düsseldorf



Celine Byrne - with Jose Carreras

Gemma Ni Bhriain in Concert Palais Garnier



James McCreanor in Concert



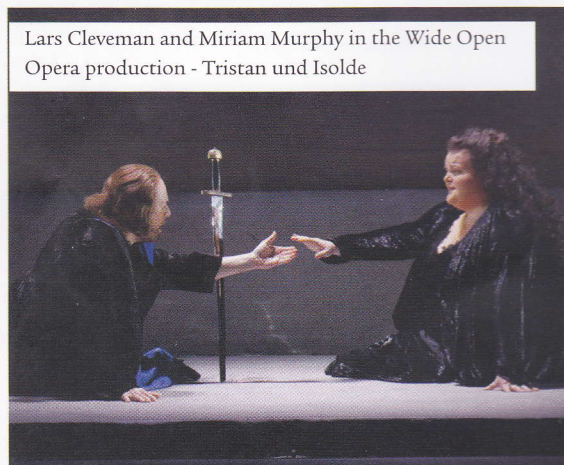
Yonghoon Heo



Celine Byrne - Micaela in Covent Garden



Lars Cleveman and Miriam Murphy in the Wide Open Opera production - Tristan und Isolde



Robert McAllister singing NCH Dec 2016



Miriam Murphy - Seattle



Imelda Drumm in the Wide Open Opera production - Tristan und Isolde



Celine Byrne - Die Marschallin (Der Rosenkavalier) Kassel





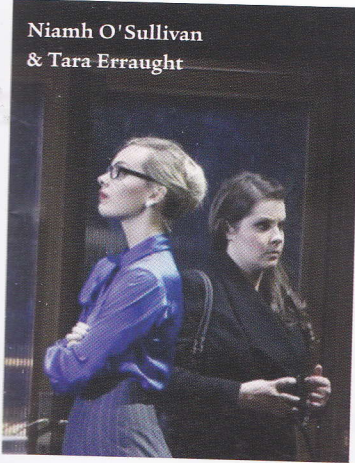
Patrick Hyland in Semele



Tara Erraught La Cenerentola at Washington National Opera



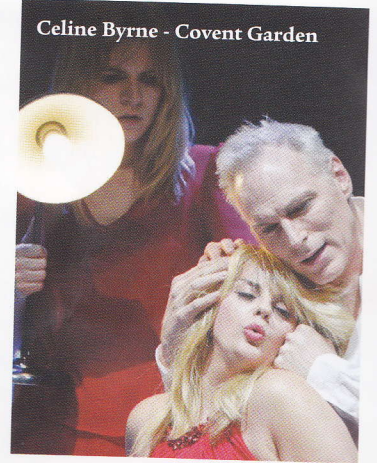
Miriam NCH stage Dec 2016



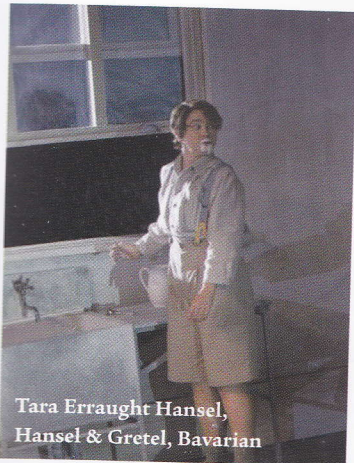
Niamh O'Sullivan & Tara Erraught



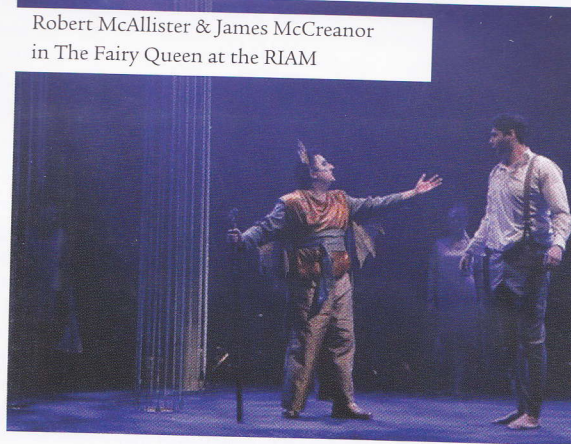
Tara Erraught Recital at Wigmore Hall



Celine Byrne - Covent Garden



Tara Erraught Hansel, Hansel & Gretel, Bavarian



Robert McAllister & James McCreanor in The Fairy Queen at the RIAM



Patrick Hyland in Wexford Opera



Niamh O'Sullivan

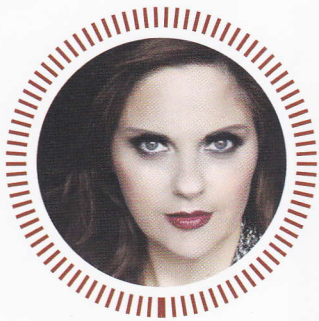


Sarah Shine



Tara Erraught Dorabella, Così fan tutte, Hong Kong

GREETINGS FROM...



My dearest Ronnie,
What I wonderful woman you are.
As a mom you understood my way of thinking, my heart and my soul. As a singer you taught me how to use my voice and gave me the confidence I was so lacking.
As a woman you showed me how to be strong and instilled in me the drive and passion that you possess.
I am so happy to have you in my life and I'm delighted to celebrate this special day with you.
Celine
Celine Byrne



Dear Ronnie,
Your dedication and commitment to teaching has been a wonderful gift to us all. Yours is truly a life of service which has benefited so many. I cherish your friendship and am so grateful for all your guidance over the years.
Happy birthday Ronnie,
Love,
Patrick
Patrick Hyland



Floria Tosca sings "Vissi d'arte, Vissi d'amore" and nobody I know embodies these lyrics more than you my darling Ronnie. You have dedicated your life to your art; filling the world with music and love firstly with your own exquisite singing and subsequently with all the students who you have inspired to the greatest operatic heights.
Happy Birthday my wonderful 'singing Mammy' and thank you for giving me the gift of song.
Miriam.
Miriam Murphy



Dearest Ronnie,
After my first lesson you said *"stick with me lovie, and you'll be wearing diamonds!"*
Tonight and with every performance I can shine because of you, your hard work and your belief in me!
With all my love,
Tara xxx
Tara Erraught

Photograph: Frances Maxwell



Dear Ronnie,
I first met you when I was 16 years old, when I auditioned for you, and after 10 minutes, you told me that I could make my living from singing. I was speechless, but thrilled.
Seven years later I was at the Bavarian State Opera. You set me on my way, giving us not only technique, but the confidence to take on the world. We were the Ronnettes (is that name still around ?), this was in the eighties, and we felt special because we had you as our teacher. Lessons with you were exciting but tough. Just as it is in the real opera world.
Thank you for inspiring that 16 year old girl,
Frances
Frances Lucey



Dearest Ronnie,
You are the very best!
All throughout your life you have shared your amazing talent and artistic insight with every young singer who has come into your life. Those with exceptional talent you immediately recognised and nurtured. When the time came, like a great 'mother-bird', you gently pushed them over the musical cliff and encouraged them to find their singing wings in new and often foreign pastures.
Tonight we honour you with the musical art you have done so much to protect and promote.
Happy 90th Birthday Ronnie!
Love, Ita
Ita O'Donovan

Celine Byrne



Celine Byrne is a lyric soprano from Kildare, Ireland. She received her Masters in Music from the Royal Irish Academy of Music in 2007, where she studied with Dr. Veronica Dunne, also receiving the RIAM award for outstanding achievement. In addition she has an honours Music Degree from the DIT, where she was awarded the college Gold Medal for excellence. In 2007 Celine was awarded the First Prize and Gold Medal at the Maria Callas Grand Prix, Athens. Other awards include the Margaret Burke-Sheridan Gold Medal in 2009, the William Young Prize at the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition, 2007 and the 'Brabants Dagblad Press Prize' at the IVC International Singing Competition in The Netherlands.

Celine is now recognised nationally and internationally as one of opera's great stars, a performer of 'fine lyrical quality and a touching actor'. She made her operatic debut as Mimi (*La Bohème*) in 2010 and in 2012 made her debut at Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in the lead role of Dvorak's *Rusalka* which she took over at very short notice. Soon afterwards she was invited back to assume the role of Mimi (*La Bohème*) followed by Micaela in *Carmen*. Celine has performed extensively throughout Europe as well as in the United States, China, Russia and Mexico in roles including Contessa Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Cio San in (*Madama Butterfly*) Floria Tosca in (*Tosca*); *Die Marschallin* (*Der Rosenkavalier*), Micaela in *Carmen*, Marietta/Marie in Korngold's *Die Tote Stadt* and most recently Liu (*Turandot*) in Leipzig and Liu and Elizabeth (*Don Carlo*) in Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Düsseldorf.

Celine regularly performs with world-renowned artists José Carreras, Roberto Alagna, Joseph Calleja, Andrea Bocelli and Bryn Terfel. Next season Celine will perform *A Summer Gala* with the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra; Richard Strauss' *Vier Letzte Lieder* in Austria, a concert in Carnegie Hall, NY, a recording of Verdi's *Requiem* with the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, *Madama Butterfly* in Stockholm, *Donna Elvira* with Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv directed by Kasper Holten, *Tosca* with Mikhailovsky Opera, St. Petersburg and Sardinia and *Die Marschallin* (*Der Rosenkavalier*) in Santiago, Chile.

Tara Erraught



A native of Dundalk Mezzo-soprano Tara Erraught is a graduate of the Royal Irish Academy of Music where she studied, and continues to study, with the acclaimed Dr Veronica Dunne. She joined the Bayerische Staatsoper opera studio in Munich in 2008 and became resident principal soloist with the Company in 2010. Tara is a recipient of the Bavarian government's prestigious *Pro meritis scientiae et litterarum* for outstanding contribution to the Arts (2013). Other honors include Dublin's 2010 National Concert Hall Rising Star Award; First Prize in the 2008 Jakub Pustina International Singing Competition in the Czech Republic, along with the Zdar nad Sazavou Audience Prize; both the Houston Grand Opera Prize and the Washington National Opera Prize at the 2008 International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition in Vienna; and the 2007 Dermott Troy Award for the Best Irish Singer and Second place at the Veronica Dunne International singing competition.

Acclaimed for her rich, radiant voice, expansive range and dynamic stage presence Tara is enjoying an ever-growing international career. She has performed at The Vienna State Opera, Theater an der Wein, Washington National Opera, Hamburg Staatsoper, Berlin Staatsoper, Glyndebourne Opera Festival, Wide Open Opera, the Salzburg Festival, and at the BBC Proms, and in recitals and concerts throughout the United States, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Austria, France, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.

Tara's 2017 summer engagements include the role of Angelina in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* [Bayerische Staatsoper], her recital debut at the prestigious Schubertiade, Schwarzenberg, recital in London's Wymore Hall; and her role debut as Annio in Deutsche Gramophones live recording of 2 concert performances of Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* with Joyce DiDonato as Sesto and Rolando Villon as Tito under conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin in Baden Baden.

On July 14th 2017 she gave a stunning performance with the RTÉ NSO at the National Concert Hall.

In the autumn of 2017, Tara will make her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in two roles: Nicklaus in Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffman* as well as Hansel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, and in February 2018 she debuts at the Gran Teatre del Liceu as Stefano in *Romeo et Juliette*. In addition to performing various roles with the Bayerische Staatsoper Tara will give recitals at the Vancouver Recital Society and debuts on Welsh National Opera's International Concert Series and at South Carolina's Peace Center.

Miriam Murphy



Hailed as one of Ireland's most exciting dramatic sopranos Miriam Murphy, a native of Tralee, County Kerry, began her studies under Dr Veronica Dunne at the College of Music, Dublin. During that time she won every major Irish competition, including the Joan Sutherland Trophy in the Dr Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition, the Gervase Elwes Cup at the Dublin Feis Coeil and the Yamaha International Foundation Bursary. She also won silver medal for Ireland at the International Competition for Young Musicians in Antwerp. Miriam embarked on postgraduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London where she immediately made her mark by winning the coveted Gold Medal for Opera. Other prizes included the Leverhulme Trust Award, the Dame Eva Turner Award, the Principal's Discretionary Award for outstanding Musical Contribution and the Principal's Prize for Opera Performance. She was named a Fellow of the RAM for her artistic achievements.

Miriam was the first prize-winner at the inaugural Seattle International Wagner Competition and subsequently returned to Seattle to perform in their acclaimed Ring Cycle. Following her sensational debut at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as Lady Macbeth in Verdi's *Macbeth*, for which she received unanimous critical acclaim, she has gone on to sing roles at some of the world's top opera houses. She has sung with Opera National de Paris, with whom she has toured Japan; Glyndebourne Festival Opera; Seattle Opera; Welsh National Opera; Opera North; ABAO Opera de Bilbao; and Opera de Lille. She sang *Aufseherin* in Covent Garden's critically acclaimed production of Strauss's *Elektra* and Female Convict in Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*.

Miriam sang Isolde in the first Irish performance in sixty two years of Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* with the NSO and WOO in Dublin. Most recently she has sung Mother in *Hansel and Gretel* with Welsh National Opera and enjoyed much critical acclaim for her performances of Verdi's *Lady Macbeth* also with Welsh National Opera. Concert appearances have included Verdi's Requiem at the Barbican, the BBC Proms, Abigail in Verdi's *Nabucco* at Dublin's National Concert Hall, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 for London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Miriam returns to Ireland regularly and will once again perform as special guest of Dublin Choral Foundation at the ESB Great Christmas Concert on December 13th 2017 in the National Concert Hall.

GREETINGS FROM...



The plethora of quality performances tonight is ample testimony to Ronnie's contribution to Irish opera. Since her 80th birthday Ronnie's vision for her competition has made an even greater imprint. At least eight young Irish singers singing in opera houses throughout Europe testify to the realisation of her vision to provide a platform for them through her competition. No doubt we can look forward to an even greater imprint over the next 10 years. We all wish Ronnie a very happy birthday and joy in the celebration of her vision.

Diarmuid Hegarty,
Director Griffith College



To the most wonderful lady on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Yet another achievement!

From your students, past, present and future. Thank you for the joy, the laughter and the stories ... It's been a real pleasure to share part of your life and your story in singing and its been a privilege to learn from you.

Love you.

Imelda.

Dr Imelda Drumm BBS, DMusPerf
Lecturer in Voice
Royal Irish Academy of Music



Ronnie,

Thank you, thank you, thank you for letting me into your life.

I will always remember the fun we had together, writing your story - and what a story!

You are a joy and an inspiration.

Have a wonderful birthday.
xxx Alison.

Alison Maxwell,
Author of 'Ronnie' Dr Veronica
Dunne's authorised biography.



Darling Ronnie,

Many thanks for your continued dedication to the vocal students at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. You are an inspiration to us all, and are a generous and supportive colleague to your faculty friends.

You have been a personal guide and adviser at key times in my own career, and I am immensely grateful for that. I wish you well on this landmark occasion and I also look forward to new musical adventures, to watching you nurture more young musical souls, and to sharing your triumphs in the years to come.

Fondest,
Deborah Kelleher
Director, Royal Irish Academy of Music



The DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama wish Ronnie a very Happy Birthday and congratulate her on all her incredible achievements and successes over her long career. Ronnie started her illustrious teaching career in what was then the VEC and as Head of Vocal Studies, established the first vocal department in Ireland. Many notable DIT alumni emerged from this studio including Suzanne Murphy and Patricia Bardon, both of whom have been visiting artists to DIT in recent years and continue to pass on Ronnie's wonderful legacy to the next generation of singers. We wish Ronnie health and happiness and a wonderful birthday celebration in the NCH!

Dr. Orla McDonagh
Head, DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama

Patrick Hyland



Patrick Hyland commenced his studies with Dr Veronica Dunne in 2006 at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Patrick as a finalist was awarded The Dermot Troy Prize for the best overall Irish singer at the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition 2016.

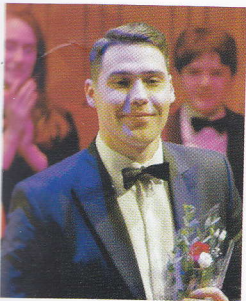
Operatic roles include Erik Oxenstjerna *Cristina*, *Regina Di Svezia* (Wexford Festival Opera), Nemorino *L'Elisir d'amore* (Wexford Festival Opera), Tamino *The Magic Flute* (Wexford Festival Opera), El

Remendado *Carmen* (RTE CO), Jupiter *Semele* (RIAM), Rinuccio *Gianni Schicchi* (RIAM) Camille *The Merry Widow* (Lyric Opera & Cork Opera House) Rodolfo (Cover) *La Boheme* (OTC).

He has been a member of the Glyndebourne Opera Festival Company Chorus (2012 & 2013). Concert and solo performances include BAM New York, Internationale Opernwerkstatt Switzerland tour 2014, Áras an Uachtaráin, The National Concert Hall, Dublin Castle, The Mansion House and the Royal Hospital Kilmainham for the Irish Presidency of the European Union. Oratorio performances include Gerontius, The Creation, Stabat Mater and The Messiah.

Patrick is a multiple Feis Ceoil winner including the Dermot Troy Trophy for Oratorio, The Count John McCormack Cup, The William Young Cup, Operatic Duet Cup and the Sligo Feis Ceoil best male singer cup. He is a recipient of a bursary from the Count John McCormack Society and is a former Opera Theatre Young Associate Artist.

Robert McAllister



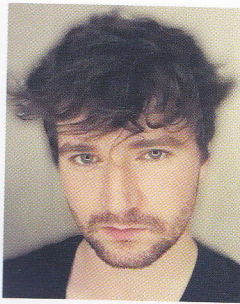
Having achieved a joint honours degree in Business and Law at University College Dublin, Robert McAllister, bass, decided to pursue his operatic dream under the aegis of Dr Veronica Dunne and répétiteurs Alison Young and Dearbhla Collins at The Royal Irish Academy of Music. Within the RIAM he has performed the roles of Sarastro in *The Magic Flute* and Bottom in Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*. He is a multiple prize winner in the ESB Feis Ceoil, this year winning the Dramatic Cup and Tony Quigley

Bursary. In the Academy, from a field of 37 singers, he emerged the winner of the prestigious Irené Sandford Bursary. He was recently presented with the John McCormack award at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor of Dublin.

Robert performed in the Hugh Lane Gallery in June in celebration of Ronnie's 90th Birthday and also in Paris and New York at the Writer's Choice Concert Series. He also finds ample time to practice the fine art of choral singing as a member of The Lassus Scholars under the direction of Dr Ite O'Donovan and has performed with them at many Irish venues, including his debut performance as soloist at the National Concert Hall, and in Italy.

Robert was selected as the classical artist to watch in 2017 by Goldenplec.ie. Forthcoming engagements include Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and Liszt's *Coronation Mass* with the NSO in The National Concert Hall in September. In October he will perform the role of The High King of Tír na nÓg in the Opera Theatre Company's production of Robert O'Dwyer's *Eithne* in The National Concert Hall. In February 2018 he will travel to Halle in Germany to perform the bass solo in Handel's *Messiah* in the Händel-Halle.

James McCreanor



Tenor James McCreanor from Co Louth began his musical training studying piano with the Sisters of Mercy, Ardee. He also played trumpet with the Ardee Concert Band.

James commenced his vocal studies with Geraldine McGee who later referred him to Dr Veronica Dunne with whom he has studied at the Royal Irish Academy of Music since 2013. Since then he has performed in numerous productions at the RIAM including Handel's *Messiah*, Britten's *War Requiem*, Mozart's *Magic Flute* for which he was understudy for Tamino, and most recently as Ariel in Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*.

James has performed as soloist with the Dundalk Dramatic Club, at fundraising events for the Dr Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition, including Kilruddery 2016 and 2017, and at fundraising events for Barretstown Camp. He has also performed with Il Coro Italiano di Dublino, most recently at the James Joyce Summer School in Trieste. A member of The Lassus Scholars since 2016 James has performed with them at many Irish venues and also in Rome. He has taken the tenor solos in a number of Mozart masses including *Spatzenmesse* and *Orgelsolo-messe*.

James McCreanor continues to train with Dr Veronica Dunne and looks forward to participate in further competitions and productions under her guidance.

Gemma Ní Bhriain



Born in Dublin, mezzo-soprano Gemma Ní Bhriain graduated from the Royal Irish Academy of Music with a BA in Music Performance where she studied with Dr. Veronica Dunne.

In September 2016 Gemma joined the International Opera Studio of Opernhaus Zürich, and performed a number of roles during their 2016/17 season including Cléone (*Médée* - Charpentier), Frauenstimme (*Orest* - Trojahn) and Le Père, La Chatte and l'Écureuil (*l'Enfant et*

les sortilèges - Ravel).

From September 2014 until July 2016, Gemma was a member of the *Atelier Lyrique* Opera Studio at Opéra National de Paris. During her two seasons in Paris she debuted in five roles, including two world premieres; Dorabella (*Così fan tutte* - Mozart); Diane (*Iphigénie en Tauride* - Gluck); Proserpina (*Orfeo* - Monteverdi); Etienne (*Maudits les Innocents* - Urquiza, Lembke, Rotella, Alvarado) and Le Garçon (*Vol Retour / The Way Back Home* - Joanna Lee). She also made her main stage solo debut at Opéra Bastille singing the role of Alisa in Lucia Di Lammermoor (Donizetti).

Previous roles include: Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen*; Jenny's Girl (*The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*) with OTC and Rough Magic; Fox (*The Cunning Little Vixen*) with RIAM; Florence Pike (Albert Herring) with RIAM, and Sally (*A Hand of Bridge*) in RIAM's Opera Briefs series.

In January 2013 Gemma was awarded 4th place and also the Dermot Troy Award for Best Irish Singer and the Dame Joan Sutherland Award for Most Promising Young Singer in the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition.

During the 2017/2018 season, Gemma will remain a member of the IOS Zürich where she will make several role debuts at Opernhaus Zürich including, Zweite Dame (*Die Zauberflöte*), Ho-Gou (*Häuptling Abendwind*) and Ramiro (*La Finta Giardiniera*) to name but a few.

GREETINGS FROM...



Dearest Ronnie,

Who says the Devil is a man? I am convinced you have reached this exalted age because you are a "Devil incarnate" who enjoys life to the fullest, loves her friends, is dedicated to her students and fights for her beliefs while spreading joy and laughter throughout her path.

Da Ponte well describes you in the finale of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*:

"Fortunato l'uom che prende
Ogni cosa per buon verso
E tra i casi e le vicende
Da ragion guidar si fa.
Quel che suole altrui far piangere
Fia per lui cagion di riso
E del mondo in mezzo ai turbini
Bella calma troverà"

Know how much I love you, Ronnie. I am richer and stronger for having you a large part of my life!

Happy 90th Birthday!

Jack Mastroianni
International Jury



Ronnie was known as an extremely versed and talented opera celebrity and respected teacher.

It was an honour to portray her in my line of work and many of her proteges were referred to me to help launch their careers and I always appreciated her support in my profession.

This celebration gives me the chance to wish her congratulations on the wonderful occasion of her 90th birthday and to wish her a good and healthy and continuous long life.

Sorry I cannot be there.

With love

Edmund Ross
Photographer



Dearest Ronnie,

It gives me great joy to write for this momentous occasion – your 90th birthday!

For over 40 years you have been my mentor and inspiration. It has been a privilege to share in the development of generations of students, many of whom have become friends.

Your endless patience, energy and enthusiasm never fails to amaze me!

We have become such close friends, something I greatly value. What fun we've had had on trips abroad to hear your latest "star"!

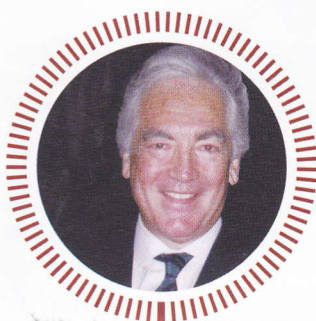
Remember, as the saying goes, "Life begins at 40". You're now only 50!!

It is wonderful to be here tonight celebrating with family and friends!

Happy Birthday Ronnie!

From your pal,

Alison
Alison Young



My dear Ronnie,

I am so happy to be able to send you wishes for a wonderful 90th birthday. You are a very special lady and I have such great memories of you dating back to your days in Covent Garden. I am sure you know that Joan adored you and I most certainly do.

Working with you in these last few years has been a great honour for me and a great pleasure.

I so look forward to seeing you soon.

Have a splendid day.

With much love

Richard Bonyng AC CBE



Dear Dr. Dunne,

I wish you the happiest of birthdays!

Winning your competition in 2016 opened huge doors in my singing career that I'm so thankful for. It's definitely been one of the highlights of my life and I promise to work very hard to always be well-deserving of having the honor of winning this competition.

Thank you for giving music and art so much of your life! It's people like you who make the biggest difference!

Lots of love and admiration, Fatma

Fatma Said

Winner of the Dr Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition 2016

Niamh O'Sullivan



Twenty-two year old mezzo-soprano Niamh O'Sullivan, from Cork, is currently a member of the Opernstudio at The Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich entering into her second season there. Niamh studied under Dr. Veronica Dunne at The Royal Irish Academy of Music for 3 years during which time she won numerous competitions at the ESB Feis Ceoil including The Geoghegan Cup, Dermot Troy, German Government and the Mahler Prize.

Niamh sang the role of 'Erato' in *The Applause of Mount Parnassus* at Wigmore Hall last year under the direction of Peter Whelan and the Ensemble Marysas. This season, Niamh performed roles in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *The Consul*, *Jenufa*, *Madama Butterfly* and the premiere of *Die Gezeichneten* at The Bayerische Staatsoper. This coming season 17/18, Niamh will sing Hänsel in a concert version of *Hänsel and Gretel* with the Opernstudio in Munich in November and will sing one of the sisters in the premiere of Puccini's *Suor Angelica* under the baton of Kirill Petrenko at the Bayerische Staatsoper in December. Niamh will also sing as a soloist in *Der Rosenkavalier* at Carnegie Hall, New York in March 2018 as well as many other roles at the Staatsoper.

Sarah Shine



Born in Limerick in 1993, soprano Sarah Shine graduated in June 2015 with a B.A in Music Performance and a Recital Artist Diploma from the Royal Irish Academy of Music where she studied with Dr. Veronica Dunne.

Upon graduating, Sarah was chosen as one of 40 finalists to compete at the Neue Stimmen International Singing Competition 2015 in Gütersloh, Germany. In December 2015, she was invited by Neue Stimmen and

Bertelsmann Stiftung to perform a winter recital hosted by Renée Fleming in Washington D.C.

During her studies, Sarah made her operatic debut with some of Ireland's leading opera companies. Sarah played the role of 'Jenny's Girl' in *The Rise and Fall of the city of Mahagonny* with Opera Theatre Company in June 2014 and in December 2015 made her Wide Open Opera debut as 'Storyteller' in *The Oldest Woman in Limerick*. Previous roles for the Royal Irish Academy of Music include 'Young Vixen' (*The Cunning Little Vixen*) 'Zerlina' (*Don Giovanni*) 'Filia' (*Jepthe*) 'Cis' (*Albert Herring*) and 'Clorinda' (*Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*).

In addition to operatic work, Sarah has given recitals throughout Ireland most notably in The Hugh Lane Gallery as part of The Dublin Song Series and Great Music in Irish Houses Festival. She has performed with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and Ulster Orchestra on numerous occasions and made her debut with The Hibernian Orchestra Ireland in 2014 as soloist for Gorecki's 'Symphony of Sorrowful Songs'. She has performed in masterclass with Richard Bonynghe, Henning Ruhe, Brenda Hurley, Ann Murray (DBE) and Iain Burnside.

This September, Sarah will join the Académie de l'Opera National de Paris as a singer in residence for the 2017/2018 season.

JongHoon Heo (Aldo)



Born in Korea, baritone JongHoon Heo (Aldo) graduated from the Korean National University of Arts with a Bachelor of Music degree in 2004. In 2011 he continued his vocal studies with Ana Luisa Chova at the Conservatorio Superior de Musica in Valencia, Spain before coming to Dublin to study voice with Dr Veronica Dunne at the Royal Irish Academy of Music where he obtained his Recital Artist Diploma in 2016.

Aldo has taken part in many International Voice competitions, taking first place at the Concorso Lirico Internazionale di Città di Grandate, Italy (2014), the Jacinto Guerrero Singing Competition, Madrid (2013) and the Bilbao International Competition (2010).

Operatic roles in recent years include Escamillo (*Carmen*) with Lyric Opera Dublin (2016); Schaunard (*La Bohème*) Palau de Les Arts Reina Sofia Valencia (2015); Figaro (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*) and Conte (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) with the Hungarian State opera (2015); Marito (*Amelia al Ballo*) and Ben (*The Telephone*) with the Monte-Carlo in Monaco (2013); Micone (*La Dogaresa - Zarazuela*) at the Teatro de Zarazuela (2015) Tonio (*I Pagliacci*) Alfio (*Cavalleria Rusticana*) with the Vendrell Orchestra (2012), Marcello (*La Bohème*) at the Filarmonico in Verona (2011) and various roles with the Palau de Les Arts Reina Sofia, Valencia including Aeneas (*Dido and Aeneas*) in 2012 and Taddeo and Haly (*L'italiana in Algeri*) in 2011. He has worked with conductors including Andrea Battistoni, Omer Meir Wellber, Patrick Fournillier, Alberto Zedda, Zubin Mehta and Plácido Domingo.

Youngwoo Kim



Tenor Youngwoo Kim graduated from Chu-Gye Arts and Dong Universities and placed first within the men's section in the 35th Joong-Ang music competition. In 2009, he was chosen as one of the top 100 shining rookies and was highly anticipated within his home country of South Korea. He also placed 2nd among the men at the Sae-Il Korean Music Competition. Having won the UNESCO Opera Competition,

in 2010, he debuted as Rodolfo in the opera *La Bohème* at the Teatro Filarmonico in Italy. In 2016, he entered the Royal Irish Academy of Music, studying with Dr Veronica Dunne, and has since been performing at the Cologne Opera Theater as a member of their International Opera Studio program with roles in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Carmen*, *Norma*, *Turandot*, and *Candide*.



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*Wishing Ronnie Dunne
all the best for her 90th Birthday*

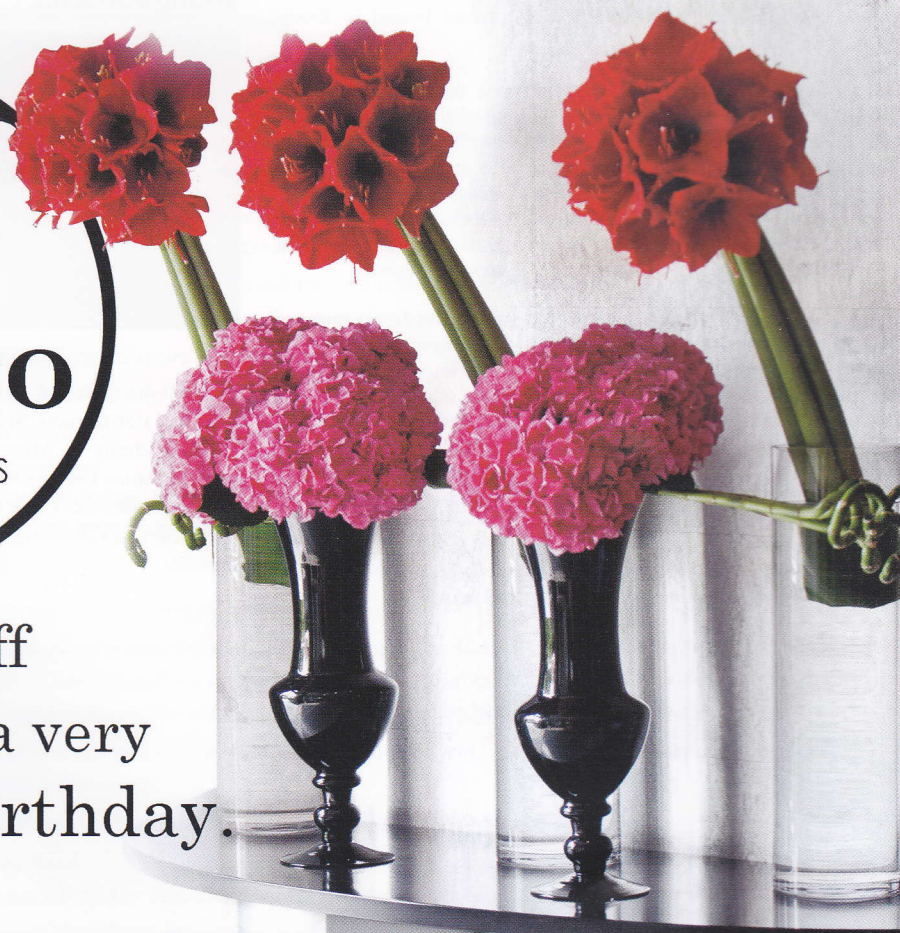
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Bronagh & staff
wish Ronnie a very
Happy 90th Birthday.



Va Pensiero

*Va', pensiero, sull'ali dorate;
 Va, ti posa sui clivi, sui colli,
 ove olezzano tepide e molli
 l'aure dolci del suolo natal!
 Del Giordano le rive saluta,
 di Sionne le torri atterrate...
 Oh mia Patria sì bella e perduta!
 O membranza sì cara e fatal!
 Arpa d'or dei fatidici vati,
 perché muta dal salice pendi?
 Le memorie nel petto raccendi,
 ci favella del tempo che fu!
 O simile di Solima ai fati,
 traggi un suono di crudo lamento;
 o t'ispiri il Signore un concerto
 che ne infonda al patire virtù!*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Directors of Dublin Choral Foundation wish to express their thanks to the following:

Simon Taylor

CEO, National Concert Hall

Deborah Kelleher

Director, Royal Irish Academy of Music

Diarmuid Hegarty

Chairman, Friends of the Vocal Arts

Dearbhla Collins

Friends of the Vocal Arts

Ciara Higgins

Royal Irish Academy of Music

Sr Bernadette Sweeney

St. Agnes Community Centre for Music and the Arts

Alison Young

Répétiteur

Sarang Choi

Répétiteur

Paula Hatton

Marketing

21st Anniversary Concert

Dublin Choral Foundation celebrates an
 extraordinary musical achievement
 in the National Concert Hall
 on Saturday, September 23rd 2017 8.00pm

21 years of music education through great choral music
 - a wonderful experience of music for choir families and
 a step for many towards a professional career.

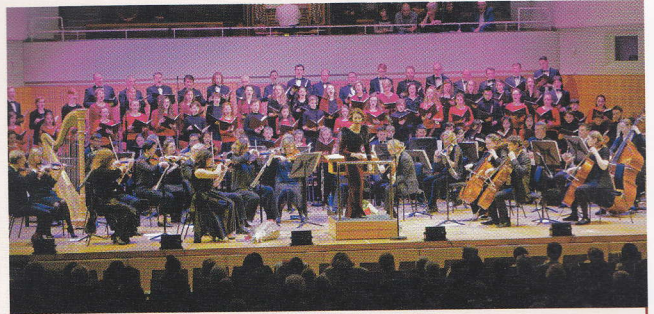
Featuring: The Lassus Scholars & Piccolo Lasso,
 The Orlando Chamber Orchestra
 (Leader: Gillian Williams)

Dr Ite O'Donovan, conductor

SPECIAL GUESTS:

- Sharon Carty, mezzo-soprano
- Dr Paul McKeever, organ
- Cian Flynn, trumpet
- Celine Kelly, piano
- Lourdes Youth Brass Band, Drogheda (John Walsh, conductor)
- Choir of St Brigid's NS Castleknock, (Niamh Williams, director), many-times winners of the Ite O'Donovan Prize (donated by the Lassus Scholars) in ESB Feis Ceoil

DUBLIN CHORAL FOUNDATION UPCOMING EVENTS



Dublin Choral Foundation the ESB Great Christmas Concert 2017

in the National Concert Hall
 on Wednesday, December 13th 2017 8.00pm

SPECIAL GUESTS:

- Miriam Murphy, soprano
- JJ McNamara, piano
- David Tobin, violin

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Kind Regards,

Ali.

Alison Marsh, The Butler's Pantry.

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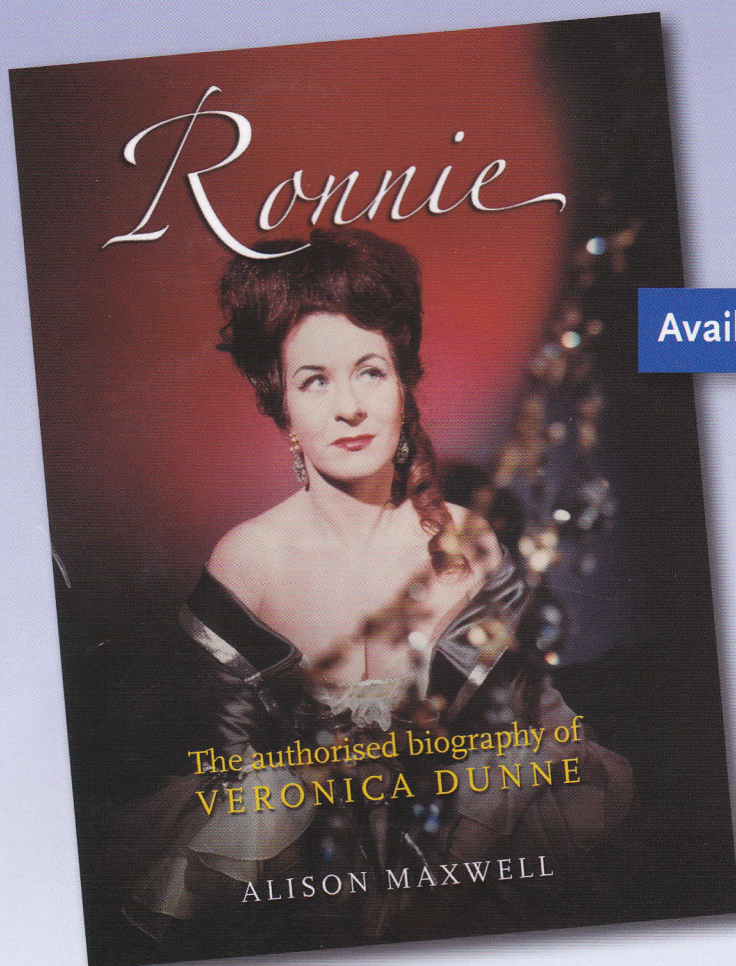

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Ronnie

The authorised biography of
VERONICA DUNNE

by **ALISON MAXWELL**



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Lavishly illustrated throughout, *RONNIE* is a book to treasure about Ireland's national treasure – Dr Veronica Dunne. From early childhood to studies in Rome, from operatic stardom to marriage and family and on to international recognition as one of the great singing teachers, Alison Maxwell's compelling biography reveals a life lived with verve, humour, courage and passion; a life of song.

The real Ronnie leaps off the pages, her humanity shining through like a beacon. I laughed and cried over all the wonderful stories. The mutual bond and affection between Ronnie and her students is tangible. The final chapter on her approach to singing will be a reference guide and template for singers and indeed teachers for generations to come. It is a truly cracking read and, in racing parlance, by a country mile the best and most honest book I have read on any performing artist.

PADDY BRENNAN

Archivist to the Dublin Grand Opera Society